ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Passing on I now come to the departments like General Administration, Finance and Accounts, and Miscellaneous.

General Administration.—As compared with the Revised estimate (Rs. 3·53 lakhs) the Budget for the coming year anticipates a saving of Rs. 0·34 lakhs due to the absence of any provision for the loan floatation as in the current year. The strengthening of the Secretariat to meet the growing needs of the times is expected to involve larger expenditure. The scheme of Post-War reconstruction which has been looming large everywhere in recent years has been duly taken up by the State also and a Deputy Secretary has been newly appointed to tackle this question. A beginning has thus been made and we request for the hearty co-operation of the House in solving the varied and important problems which may confront the State in the wake of the War.

Finance and Accounts forms as it were the nerve centre of the administration and to adequately watch the evergrowing expenditure of the Supply and other departments the audit staff had to be strengthened. A test audit of the accounts relating to grant-in-aid which involves an expenditure of over Rs. 10 lakhs is proposed for the coming year and hence the provision for a Superintendent and a staff for 6 months.

Miscellaneous.—Under this are included many sundry heads of expenditure that have had to be provided on account of the War, as A.R.P., War Publicity, National War Front, Civil Supplies, etc. The formation of the Cochin State Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmens' Board to help the dependants of our people disabled in Military duty has necessitated separate provision. The A.R.P. measures have been reduced to the minimum requirements and hence a sum of Rs. 1·08 lakhs alone is estimated for the coming year as against Rs. 3·78 lakhs and Rs. 2·18 lakhs in the Budget and Revised estimates of the current year. The activities of the Food Supply department involve in all an expenditure of Rs. 6·84 lakhs against Rs. 3·28 lakhs budgetted for the current year and against Rs. 5·32 lakhs under the Revised estimate. The magnitude of the operations of the department can well be visualised if it is realised that it employs over 1,100 persons involving a commitment of Rs. 3·51 lakhs under establishment charges alone. The Excise preventive staff also had to be considerably strengthened in the course of the year to man the frontier outposts. The staff for the control and distribution of standard cloth is proposed to be continued in the coming year.

A sum of Rs. 50,000 was provided in this year's Budget for Beggar Relief. With this amount three Beggar Relief Homes were started one at Vyttila, one at Palluruthi and the last one at Ramavarmapuram. Pending the materialisation of the general scheme of beggar relief based on the Beggar Relief Committee Report which is engaging the earnest consideration of the Government and on which necessary legislation will soon be engaging your attention these three beggar homes have to be continued in 1120 also. It is for this that the sum of Rs. 50,000 has been included in the Budget estimate.

DEVELOPMENT AND NATION BUILDING SERVICES

Agriculture, Panchayats and Industries.—With a view to ensure quick and equitable distribution of manure for which a provision of Rs. 2·00 lakhs has been made under "Advances" the term of the Special Manure staff is proposed to be extended. To improve the poor quality and breed of the cattle in the State, stud bulls of good variety have to be stationed in all the Villages and hence a tentative extra provision of Rs. 5,000 has been made for the purpose. The grades of pay of the Agriculture Inspectors and some of the staff are proposed to be revised. Tobacco cultivation is to be started on an experimental scale.

Panchayats get an increased allotment of Rs. 4·22 lakhs. 20 new libraries are proposed to be started in 1120. More intensive irrigation measures will be taken up with the special contribution of Rs. 1·75 lakhs.

Industries.—The development of cottage industries continues to engage the attention of the department. The manufacture of hand made paper continues; the Rural Development Centre at Cherpu is being developed as a bee-hive of rural industries.

Education.—In the course of my Budget remarks last year I referred to the alarming growth of expenditure on Education and the problem which Government may have to face in postwar years when the present larger revenue from Forests, Income-tax and Excise may disappear.

The total expenditure on Education is estimated at Rs. 32·38 lakhs which exceeds the Revised estimate by Rs 6·73 lakhs and the Budget estimate of 1119 by Rs. 9·53 lakhs. The most important item contributing to the abnormal increase is the provision of Rs. 4 lakhs

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